Increase in violent activities in pilgrim places

†930. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents with regard to rape, molestation and other violent activities have increased continuously in the cities like Haridwar, Varanasi, Kanpur, Allahabad, etc., which are centres of spiritual faith;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the main reason behind this is the policy of negligence of pilgrim places during the course of developing tourism by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government would formulate any action plan to develop such pilgrim places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Maintenance of law and order at all tourist places including shrines, and places of religious importance is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

The Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments and Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police to ensure safety and security of tourists at important tourist centres. Some of the States have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

Similarly, development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of States/U.Ts. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for creating inftastructure and other facilities at various tourism destinations and circuits including pilgrim places. During the Tenth Plan period, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 2011.68 crore for 1160 projects to various States/UTs.

Financial support to the Archaeological Survey of India

931. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India has the support of large National and International Corporate Houses in the conservation and restoration of monuments under the National Culture Fund;

(b) if so, what are its corpuses and how much fund has been collected during the last three years;

(c) whether the major donors are associated while restoration or conservation exercises are undertaken; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what are the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government has established a National Culture Fund (NCF) in which National and International Corporate Houses can contribute for various cultural activities including conservation and restoration of monuments. The total amount committed in the last three years is Rs.100 crore from Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and US $43900 from World Monument Fund (WMF).

(c) and (d) Separate Memoranda of Understanding are entered into with the donors for NCF projects and the donors are associated in restoration or conservation activities through representation on Project Implementation Committees. The NCF project with association of SAIL, relating to conservation of monuments at Lodi Garden, New Delhi is being implemented through Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). The NCF project with WMF relates to restoration of parts of Jaisalmer Fort. The responsibility of supervising restoration or conservation works lies with the Archaeological Survey of India.

Red Fort as a World Heritage site

932. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to make Red Fort (*Lal Qila*) which has been declared a World Heritage site a truly World Heritage site;

(b) what steps have been taken to restore Red Fort to its original beauty and character; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remove the military barracks build by the British which are an insult to the martyrs of 1857 War of Independence, besides being eyesores to the great Fort?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) To maintain the World Heritage site status of Red Fort, a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan has been prepared, which addresses both short and long term conservation strategies. The buffer area surrounding of the Red Fort has been developed by appropriate landscaping and the day to day maintenance is carried out as part of a continuous process. Further, a management system is in position with a mandate to ensure maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of this World Heritage site.

(c) The military barracks built during the 19th century are more than 100 years old and represent one of the phases of architectural history of the site. Removal of such structures attract the relevant provisions of Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.

Theft of heritage treasures

933. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft is chipping away slowly but surely at India's heritage treasures. With at least 32 idols and artefacts under the protection of the archaeological authority going missing in the last three years;